

**Questions and BJS responses related to BJS's Methodological Research to Support the Redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey Solicitation under funding opportunity 2008-BJS-1834**

***A. General questions***

**1. What research findings and data can we request from the Census Bureau? Can we contact the Census Bureau directly to request needed information?**

Response:

The grantee will not contact the Census Bureau directly, but work with and through BJS to obtain information and data required to carry out the research.

**2. Does BJS want a separate submission for each proposal or a single one for all proposals?**

Response:

Each of the four proposals will be considered separately. A grantee may submit a proposal for any or all of the four areas. If proposals are submitted for more than one area, each should be submitted separately.

**3. What level of funding does BJS anticipate for each research proposal? This would assist in determining the desired scope for each proposal.**

Response:

BJS intentionally did not specify the level of funding for the research. The goal of the research proposed in the solicitation is to inform the redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey. The study designs developed for the submissions in response to the solicitation should, therefore, be those which most efficiently and effectively accomplish the goals of the research.

**4. Can BJS provide a rationale for the restrictions in this solicitation (pages 9, 10, 11, 13) on releasing research results without written permission of the BJS Director.**

Response:

BJS is currently undergoing a redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and has initiated the first phase of the effort by examining alternative options for conducting the survey. To successfully redesign the NCVS and put it back on a sound methodological and fiscal footing, BJS needs to address and resolve many complex statistical issues. Basic methodological research is needed for internal decision making to ensure that survey changes address the current problems and are feasible, both

technically and financially. The studies under the solicitation are considered by BJS as developmental research to be used for internal decision making. As such, the reports, recommendations, and guidance for implementation produced and submitted by recipient(s) are advisory to the Director of BJS as he chooses among the alternate futures for the NCVS.

Research findings resulting from studies awarded under this solicitation will be released to the public by BJS. BJS retains all rights to exclusive use of the data until public release by BJS. At the discretion of BJS, published reports produced under a grant award may be: (1) disseminated through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) as a final grant product to be accessed electronically through the NCJRS abstract database; (2) identified on the BJS website and made accessible through a hyperlink to the grantee website; and/or, (3) posted to the BJS website.

**5. After an agreed upon period of time following the project's end date, will BJS allow unrestricted publication of research results, including derivative works from the final report?**

Response:

After BJS has completed its utilization of the data and information provided by the various studies conducted under this solicitation, it will explore archiving data from the studies at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. To the extent possible, and within the constraints of BJS's confidentiality guidelines, the data produced from these studies will be available for unrestricted analysis and publication by outside researchers.

Additionally, to the extent possible, and within the constraints of BJS's confidentiality guidelines, BJS would, after an agreed upon period of time, allow the grantee unrestricted publication of research results, including derivative works from the final report.

**6. Is the grantee expected to actually execute the surveys that it proposes, or is their job limited to coming up with a justifiable experimental design, analyzing the data, and writing a report?**

Response:

As described in the solicitation, for those components of the solicitation that call for surveys, the grantee will actually carry out the surveys, including analyzing the data and writing a report. These studies will be carried out separately from the ongoing NCVS.

**7. What if a proposal submitted in response to the solicitation overlaps across two components of the solicitation?**

Response:

Each of the components of the solicitation should be considered separately, and separate proposals submitted for each. If a proposal for one component contains elements that may overlap with another component, the proposal should be submitted for the component that it addresses most completely. Elements of the proposal which address other components of the solicitation will not be considered during the award stage of the solicitation.

***B. Questions related to 2008-BJS-1834A; An Examination of a Twelve-Month Reference Period***

**1. The RFP states that a modified version of the incident report will be used to reduce respondent burden. What data from the incident report will we have to work with?**

Response:

The current NCVS incident report is lengthy. To facilitate data collection for this research, the current version of the incident report does not need to be used in its entirety but rather may be streamlined to reduce respondent burden. The purpose of this solicitation is to improve recall of crime events over a longer reference period. The elements of the incident report that should be retained are those related to crime classification as well as those that may be associated with respondent ability to recall events occurring in the past. BJS will not make data available for this component of the RFP. The grantee is responsible for the collection and analysis of data gathered from the modified incident questionnaire.

**2. The RFP states that, “The sample for the study can be drawn to facilitate data collection.” Could you please elaborate on this?**

Response:

The current NCVS utilizes a complex stratified random sample. Since this component of the solicitation addresses recall issues, the sample drawn to carry out the research need not be drawn to be representative of the national population. For purposes of this solicitation a simple random sample or sample of convenience will suffice. The proposal should include a proposed sample of sufficient size and design to accomplish the goals of the research.

**3. Should the grantee plan to create/purchase the sample for the methodological studies, or will BJS make a portion of the NCVS sample available for re-contact?**

Response:

The grantee should plan to draw their own sample for the methodological study as described in the response to the previous question.

**4. Is BJS willing to entertain a full change in content and/or format of questions; that is, changes beyond testing the accuracy of the twelve month recall?**

Response:

At this time, BJS is not considering a change in the content of the questions. If however, during the course of this solicitation, the grantee finds that changes in the nature of the delivery of the questions from the incident questionnaire facilitate victim recall over a longer reference period, these changes in question format will be taken under consideration.

***C. Questions related to 2008-BJS-1834C; Examination of Data Collection Methods***

**1. Will the grantee be required to select the sample for the parallel studies?**

Response:

Yes. The proposal should include a proposed sample of sufficient size and design to accomplish the goals of the research. BJS will work with the grantee to select the area of the country to implement the study.

**2. How many data collection designs does BJS anticipate for the parallel studies?**

Response:

The number of data collection designs should be that which will accomplish the goals of the research.

**3. Will the parallel studies involve the first interview, a follow-up, or both?**

Response:

The parallel studies will involve one interview with each sample unit.

**4. In which language(s) - other than English - does BJS anticipate the parallel studies will be conducted?**

Response:

Because of the complexities involved in translating, studies conducted under this solicitation will be conducted in English only.

**5. Will sufficient data be available from the current NCVS design to do a cost/benefit analysis against the modes tested in the parallel studies?**

Response:

All data that are currently available on the public use data tapes will be available to the grantee. BJS will work with the Census Bureau to make additional information available as required.

**6. Will the web survey need to be 508 compliant?**

Response:

As a research project, BJS is not requiring that the web survey conducted under this solicitation be 508 compliant.

**7. Could you please provide the formula and figures for how the NCVS response rate reported in the RFP was calculated?**

Response:

NCVS response rates are computed by dividing the numbers of interviewed households and persons by the numbers of eligible households and persons in the sample. Information about the NCVS sample can be found in the methodology section of Criminal Victimization in the United States at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus/cvus05mt.pdf>